

REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the examiner's review of the prior art and request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks. Applicants would also like to thank the examiner for finding claims 38, 43, 64, and 68 allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended claims 37 and 63 to include the limitations of 38 and 64, respectively. Additionally, Applicants have added new independent claims 93 and 102 and dependent claims 94-102 and 104-110. New independent claim 93 combines the limitations of original independent claim 37 and allowable dependent claim 43. Similarly, new independent claim 102 combines the limitations of original independent claim 63 and allowable dependent claim 68.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 4-7, 10-13, 16-24, 38, 64, 74, 75, 77-86, 88-92, without prejudice. Applicants previously cancelled claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 14, 15, 25-36, 39, 48, 50-62, 76, and 87. Accordingly, claims 37, 40-47, 49, 63, 65-73, and 93-110 are currently pending in the application.

Additionally, Applicants submit herewith a supplemental information disclosure statement (IDS). The IDS has, among other things, several office actions and a response from co-owned US Patent Application Number 09/808,418 (attorney docket number 1600/136).

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejections

The office action rejected claims 1, 4-7, 10-13, 16-24, 74, 75, 77-86, and 88-92 as being anticipated by US Patent Number 5,700,248 (Lopez, hereinafter "Lopez").

As mentioned above, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 4-7, 10-13, 16-24, 74, 75, 77-86, and 88-92 without prejudice. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

The office action rejected claims 37, 40-42, 44-47, 49, 63, 65-67, and 69-73 as being anticipated by US Patent Number 5,439,451 (Collinson, hereinafter "Collinson").

As mentioned above, Applicants have amended claims 37 and 63 to include the limitations of allowable claims 38 and 64. Accordingly, Applicants believe that this rejection is now moot and claims 37, 40-42, 44-47, 49, 63, 65-67, and 69-73 are now allowable over the cited prior art.

All pending claims therefore are allowable over the cited art. The application therefore is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Applicants do not believe that any extension of time is required. However, if an extension of time is required, Applicants hereby request that the associated fee and any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4972. Applicants also request that the examiner contact applicant's attorney, Jonathan Lovely, if it will assist in processing this application through issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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